

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
STR-07 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02
TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 L-03 /064 R

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LABOR: IKRAMER (INFO)
STR: MSMITH(INFO)
NEA/INS: JGRAHAME
-----006827 180248Z /70
P R 172221Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IN

SUBJECT: BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 102820

1. WE MET AGAIN MAY 16 WITH INDIAN EMBASSY MINISTER DIXIT
TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS ARISING UNDER NEW BILATERAL TEXTILE
AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 18.
PARAGRAPH 18 STATES THAT GOI WILL NOT DEPART FROM PATTERN
OF EXPORTS IN CERTAIN TYPES OF APPAREL BUT DOES NOT MENTION
ANY QUANTITATIVE LIMITS. THE NEGOTIATORS AGREED THAT
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PARAGRAPH 18 ESTABLISHES LEVELS SPECIFIED IN THE RECORD OF
DISCUSSIONS BUT THAT THOSE LEVELS WOULD NOT BE STATED
BECAUSE OF INDIAN POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES REGARDING ANY
RESTRICTION OF HANDLOOM ITEMS. LEVELS SPECIFIED IN RECORD
OF DISCUSSIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

341 BLOUSES, NOT KNIT, W.G.I. 2,012,117 DOZEN

338 AND 339, KNIT SHIRTS AND BLOUSES,
340, M. AND B. WOVEN SHIRTS 919,351 DOZEN
336 DRESSES 168,190 DOZEN
347, 348 TROUSERS, M.B.W.G.I. 106,148 DOZEN

2. WE EXPLAINED TO DIXIT THAT WE NEED TO PUT IMPORT CONTROLS ON FOUR JOINT MILLMADE AND HANDLOOM APPAREL CATEGORIES IN ORDER TO ALERT EXPORTERS, IMPORTERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO THEIR EXISTENCE, AS WELL AS TO PREVENT OVERSHIPPING. WE WANT TO DO THAT PROMPTLY SO AS TO MINIMIZE INCONVENIENCE AND EXPENSE FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN THE TRADE. MOST RECENT AVAILABLE DATA SHOW FOUR CATEGORIES ARE FILLED AS FOLLOWS: WOVEN BLOUSES - 45.5 PERCENT, KNIT SHIRTS AND BLOUSES AND WOVEN SHIRTS 23.1 PERCENT, DRESSES - 29.5 PERCENT, AND TROUSERS 64.7 PERCENT. THESE SHIPMENT LEVELS REPRESENT PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM INDIA IN 1978 THAT WERE IMPORTED INTO US AS OF APRIL 28.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DIXIT HAS CABLED GOI TO ASCERTAIN ITS REACTION TO FOREGOING. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO WORK OUT WITH HIM VERY QUICKLY LANGUAGE FOR AN APPROPRIATE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE AND LETTER TO CUSTOMS WHICH WILL ESTABLISH IMPORT CONTROLS ON THESE CATEGORIES WITHOUT RAISING GOI OBJECTIONS.

4. AN ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PROBLEM WE DISCUSSED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIXIT RELATES TO GOI'S INCONSISTENCY IN VISAING EXPORTS. CUSTOMS HAS IDENTIFIED VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL PRODUCTS, SOME OF WHICH CARRY THE REGULAR ROUND VISA, OTHERS THE RECTANGULAR EXEMPT CERTIFICATION. WE ASKED DIXIT, AND HE AGREED, TO SUPPLY SAMPLES OF ITEMS IN INDIA ITEM LIST, SO THAT WE CAN BETTER DEFINE AND CUSTOMS CAN BETTER DETERMINE IF ITEMS BEARING EXEMPT CERTIFICATIONS MEET AGREED CRITERIA.

5. WE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH DIXIT PROBLEMS CONCERNING OTHER LEVELS WHICH ARE FILLED AS FOLLOWS: GROUP II (APPAREL, MADE-UP GOODS, MISCELLANEOUS GOODS) WITH A LEVEL OF 35,403,000 SYE 81.0 PERCENT FILLED, CATEGORY 342 (SKIRTS) WITH A LEVEL OF 84,270 DOZ. 80.7 PERCENT FILLED, CATEGORY 335 (WOMENS', GIRLS' AND INFANTS' COATS) WITH A LEVEL OF 16,949 SYE 50.8 PERCENT FILLED. VANCE

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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